

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLANCalumet Container Site, Hammond, Indiana

This community relations plan outlines activities to be conducted during a Superfund planned removal action at the Calumet Container site in Hammond, Indiana. Subject to finalization of the State Superfund Contract between the U.S. EPA and the Indiana State Board of Health, U.S. EPA will have the lead responsibility for this action. This community relations plan can be updated and revised in response to events affecting the progress of the removal action and/or citizens' needs or concerns.

A. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES1. Site History

Calumet Container Corporation
136th and State Line Road
Hammond, Indiana

Calumet Container Corporation, a division of Steel Container Corporation, was a drum reconditioning operation located at 136th and State Line Road in Hammond, Indiana. This facility received, stored, cleaned and recycled metal containers ranging in size from five-gallon pails to 55 gallon drums along with various sized fiber drums. Origins of drums were paint, ink and graphic arts industries. The site is located on both Indiana and Illinois lands and is approximately 50 yards from Powderhorn Lake, located in Illinois. This drum reconditioning operating began in the 1960s and terminated with a fire on April 21, 1982.

A post fire inspection of this facility on April 26, 1982, found 69 truck trailers on-site which were used for storage of metal and fiber drums. A survey of these 69 trailers by the U.S. EPA Region V, found solids and liquids in drum storage as well as liquids in bulk storage in several tank trailers. Aromatic hydrocarbons, xylene, adhesives, and paint wastes which may contain metals, flammable liquids and solids, waste oil and lime are suspected components of the drummed liquids and solids found on-site.

Immediate removal action by U.S. EPA Region V at this site removed approximately 5500 gallons of liquid and 30 cubic yards of sludge. These actions were completed on May 21, 1982. However, there remains an estimated 18 tons of waste material stored in drums on-site.

Demolition, pursuant to an order by the City of Hammond, has taken place at the site. The past fire building structure and cement floor have been demolished and removed from the site at a cost of \$14,500. These actions were completed during November, 1982. U.S. EPA Region V is unaware of any current cleanup actions, public or private, taking place at the site.

2. COMMUNITY CONCERNSSite Security

The site lies within 1,600 feet of the Sheffield Estates Trailer Park in Hammond. The park contains 366 house trailers and 34 single family homes. Within 1,600 feet of the site in Illinois are two other trailer parks with 75 trailers. A widely used recreational fishing area (Powderhorn Lake) is within 300 feet of the site. The site has virtually no security and local officials have observed evidence of vandalism.

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With the heavy unemployment and large population of fixed income retired workers, the site has attracted people looking for scrap metal or just looking around in the truck trailers on site for something of value. Drums were opened, and their contents spilled by trespassers in several locations this past summer. On one occasion a man, was seen fleeing the site with wire cutters in his hands.

Although the physical plant and incinerator were demolished by City Notice this fall, city officials are still concerned about the fire hazard posed by the site, believing that two recent fires at the facility were the result of unrestrained access.

Potential Runoff

Heavy rains could cause runoff resulting in contamination of soil in the trailer park areas.

Trailer park residents did not exhibit a high degree of interest during our May 1982, emergency removal action at the site. (The trailer park managers were advised prior to the action.) Their concern regarding the site up until now has been limited to complaints about an odor problem, particularly in the summer and fall.

Residents in another part of the Robertsdale section of Hammond (trailer parks are in Robertsdale) recently became active and were instrumental in defeating an attempt to drain and convert George Lake into a sanitary landfill. These are Eastern European retirees, many from Inland Steel and Amoco with grave concern about the property value of their homes. They reside away from the central city of Hammond, with an industrial area lying in between. They tend to feel neglected and view their community as an "outpost" which they are determined to preserve. As a result of their experience with the landfill issue, they have shown a peaked interest in all environmental affairs. Should the removal action at Calumet Container receive widespread media attention, there is a possibility they may become actively involved.

Possible Future Contamination Of Wolf Lake

A major concern of local officials and one in which the Robertsdale citizens could become involved is the potential for contamination of Wolf Lake, a 60 acre, full use recreation area with a 3 million dollar renovation project underway, heavily used by both Southern Chicago and Hammond residents. (In August and September 1982, the City of Chicago connected Powderhorn and Wolf Lakes via a channel that runs directly adjacent to the site. This was done to counteract periodic overflow of Powderhorn). The fear of surface runoff from the site into this channel resulting in possible contamination of Wolf Lake is of great concern. (Calumet Containers is not on the NPL for remedial action.)

B. OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

The objectives of the Community Relations program are:

1. Since there is community concern about possible ground and surface water contamination, and since this site is not currently on the NPL it will be particularly important to educate local officials, citizens and media as to the limitations of this planned removal under CERCLA, i.e., that it is a surface cleanup and there can be no efforts undertaken to determine possible extent of contamination.

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2. To keep local officials, interested citizens, state and Congressional legislators and State officials apprised of the plan and time table for the clean-up.
3. To ensure that local officials interested in the site be informed of plans, progress and any problems which may develop.
4. To ensure that accurate information is disseminated to the media on a timely basis.

C. COMMUNITY RELATIONS TECHNIQUES

The following techniques are suggested to meet the objectives of this community relations plan:

<u>Technique</u>	<u>Objective</u>
1. Meetings with local and state officials	To keep them informed of plans and progress. There will be an initial group meeting. Follow-up contact will be one-on-one either by phone or in person as the need arises.
2. Meetings with trailer park managers	To inform managers of our plans for the cleanup, safety plan and contact persons in the event of problems. Fact sheet to be distributed to residents to ensure residents understand what the cleanup will accomplish and how it will be done. (Should our initial visit to meet with the managers indicate need for a meeting with residents, we will follow through through on that immediately)
3. Media briefing at start-up of operation	To provide all concerned and interested media with accurate information, an opportunity to view initial removal operation and question U.S. EPA, state and local officials.
4. Press Releases	To apprise interested media of any major developments and at start-up and conclusion of project.
5. Concluding Report	To provide a record of public involvement and contact between U.S. EPA and citizens or officials.

* D. WORKPLAN AND SCHEDULE

(Project to take approximately 70 days)

	(Start-up)		
	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3
Meeting with local officials	X	(as required)	
Meetings with Trailer Park Managers	X		
Media Briefing	X		
Press Releases	X	(as required)	X
Fact Sheet	X	(as required)	

- * It is premature to speculate on a project start-up date at this time, since obligation of funds and waiver of 6-month time limit have not been approved.

E. BUDGET AND STAFFING PLAN

Work hours

Meeting with local officials	Tim O'Mara (U.S. EPA)	16
	Marcia Carlson "	12
	Chris Oppy (ISBH)	16
Meeting with Trailer Park Managers	Tim O'Mara (U.S. EPA)	4
	Marcia Carlson "	4
	Chris Oppy (ISBH)	4
Media Briefing	Tim O'Mara (U.S. EPA)	3
	Robert Hartian "	5
	Chris Oppy (ISBH)	3
Press Releases	Robert Hartian (U.S. EPA)	6
Fact Sheet	Marcia Carlson "	5
Concluding Report	Marcia Carlson "	10

APPENDIX

INTERESTED CITIZENS AND OFFICIALS

Officials

Edward J. Raskosky, Mayor, City of Hammond
Ronald L. Novak, City of Hammond, Air Pollution Control (219) 853-6306
Katie Hall, U.S. Congresswoman (8) 383-3358, Gary, IN
Tim Sanders, Aide to Senators Lugar and Quale, Gary, IN
Lane Ralph, Aide to Senators Lugar and Quale, Indianapolis, IN
John Reibe, Hammond Health Department (219) 853-6358
Norbert Gaylor, Fire Dept. Chief, City of Hammond
George Blummer, Chief Fire Inspector, City of Hammond
Councilman Gerald Bobos, 1st District of Hammond
Tim O'Mara, (OSC), U.S. EPA 886-6337
Chris Oppy (ISBH), (317) 633-0207
Mary Gade (U.S. EPA) 886-6668
Karen Evans (ISBH) 633-0816
Howard Chinn, Illinois Attorney General's Office
William Burgess, Building Commissioner, Hammond, IN
Deborah Albright, Indiana Attorney General
Jack Barnette, (Illinois EPA)

CITIZENS

John Jagiella, Calumet Container owner
Joseph Novosel, Robertsdale resident (active in George Lake issue) (219) 659-0799
Odell Nesmith ("Digger") manager of Sheffield Estates Trailer Park, Hammond, IN
(219) 931-9400
Edward D. Hayes, Manager, Island Homes Inc., trailer park in Illinois
(312) 646-2200.

MEDIA

Joe Collins, WJOB, Radio, Hammond
Laurie Olzewski, Hammond Times 375-2679
Gary Post Tribune (219) 886-05000
Steven Ray, Channel 5, Chicago, (219) 769-6977